



TROUBLED: Star Jude's absences led to tense, late-night phone calls

What Sadie did was a tragic cry for help

EXCLUSIVE

BY CAROLE AYE MAUNG

FILM star Jude Law and Sadie Frost have been secretly battling to save their marriage for over three months.

Traumas which began last October came to a head this week with a bust-up at their base in Los Angeles and a dash to hospital after a suicide scare.

"She was taken to hospital more because of her depressed state than because she was in any physical danger," said a close friend of the pair. "But she's at a very low point."

The couple's problems really started after it was revealed how their daughter Iris, two, ate an ecstasy tablet from the floor at a private party at West End celebrity haunt, Soho House.

She recovered after having her stomach pumped and being given an emergency brain scan.

But the friend said: "Jude was filming in Romania at the time, and though he has never blamed Sadie for the accident he can't get it out of his mind that Iris was in her care when she came so close to death."

"It's unreasonable and he knows it. But it's always there."

Last night as Jude and Sadie were in Los Angeles talking through their problems, it became clear that Sadie was undergoing counselling. "Sadie has had this already and will continue to have help," the friend added. "She has a wealth of family and friends behind her. Both Jude and Sadie are family mad and they're battling to stay together. The children really are the most important things in their lives and it's the kids' happiness which will dictate what happens here."

"In fact, it was because Sadie is so watchful that she spotted Iris was sucking something and managed to get half the tablet out of her mouth."

Difficult

"The problem is Jude and Sadie have had so little time together to talk. For the best part of 12 months it's been little more than a phone relationship while he's been away with his new movie."

"There have been a lot of very highly-charged calls filled with lots of difficult silences, often late at night. And sometimes the pressures of being apart and dealing with living in a goldfish bowl simply become too much." Besides Iris, the couple have three other children: Rafferty, seven, four-month-old baby Rudy, and Sadie's 12-year-old son Finlay from her marriage to Spandau Ballet's Gary Kemp.

Her pal went on: "When Jude came home from Romania last year, he told Sadie that he had concerns about the marriage and that he feared it was over."

"Sadie had been depressed about the way the relationship was going for a very long time. Her state of mind, her depression, isn't something that's just happened."

"But we still hoped they'd work everything out—and actually thought they were. Sadie would say, 'We're not splitting up. We're not splitting up.'"

In December the couple and their children joined best friend Kate Moss, her partner Jefferson Hack and their newborn daughter Lila Grace on a five-week holiday in Phuket, Thailand.

They had hoped it might be a healing vacation, but smiles between the pair were forced through out contrasting conspicuously with the lovey-dovey behaviour be-

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